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only way to do that was to say that you would look at the area of minimum sentencing. That the minimum sentence can be no more than one-third of the maximum. So let's say that the sentencing range was from 1 year to 50 years, or 5 years to 50 years, and a judge would say, I'm going to give you a sentence of 30 years to 50 years. The minimum would not be 30. By operation of law, it would be one-third of 50 or 16 and two-thirds. The minimum was determined by law if the judge tried to set it above one-third of the maximum. The judge could set a minimum less than one-third, and the minimum that was set became the minimum. In order that people will understand how this works, when you tie in the idea of good time. Good time is accumulated or given to an inmate when he or she first comes into the prison. Good time is used to take time off the minimum sentence to determine when a person is eligible for parole. Eligibility does not guarantee the granting of parole. It means that a person must serve that much time before the parole board can even consider allowing that person to be released. If the person is not suitable for release in the minds of the Parole Board, they are not released when their eligibility has been arrived at. It also is used to take time off the maximum sentence. And it takes time off the maximum sentence to establish when a person must absolutely be released, even if the Parole Board refuses to act. And that would be what they call jamming their sentence. They've served all of the time that under the law they can be required to serve. When that amount of time is served, they have to be released. There have been changes in good time laws to allow a person to be eligible for parole prior to jamming out his or her sentence. There were some inmates who would want to jam out their sentence so that they would not be under the direction or in the custody of the state when they were released from prison. This system is so complicated, the Legislature has changed the good time laws to such an extent that we had arrived at a set, a set of circumstances where a person would be eligible for release through what they call a jam date before he or she would be eligible for parole,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...as odd as that seems. But that's what happens when politicians start tinkering with the system. So a change was made in order that a person would be paroled before